

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY China/Korea

DATE DISTR. 8 JUN 61

SUBJECT Epidemics in Manchuria

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PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Typhus reached epidemic proportions in Chientao Province of eastern Manchuria*

The epidemic was of short duration but flared up again more severely. Five thousand out of a population of 20,000 in one Chientao village were reported to be infected.

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2. The disease was originally discovered in Harbin when ten of

400 conscripts there were found to have it. They were treated at Hsinchuan (125-29, 44-59), on the Harbin-Lafa line, but later other conscripts were also found to be infected. Military training was stopped and the personnel were sent to an army hospital, but about half the conscripts died. Traffic and public markets were interrupted in the area, but the disease spread to the civilian population, particularly to Korean elements.

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3. The preventive measures against typhus consisted of stopping military training, restricting traffic and public gatherings, and prohibiting the drinking of cold water.** The dishes used by the soldiers were destroyed and the men were fed rice balls. A small quantity of medicine was received from the USSR, but this was sufficient only for military and party officials. No general immunization program was carried out.

4. Many of the Korean refugees from North Hamgyong who were in Manchuria are reported to have become infected with typhus.

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* Comment. This territorial division, no longer observed, is the easternmost part of Manchuria adjoining Korea.

** Comment. This measure was adopted because it was believed the high incidence of Korean deaths (ten times more than the Chinese) was due to the Korean habit of drinking cold water.

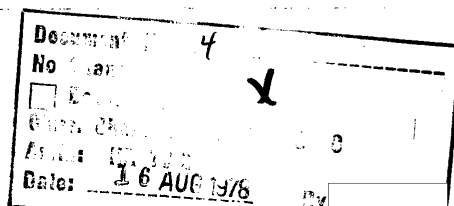
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